

Documentary Films on video at the library Media Center

There are many more documentaries than this at the media center. This list reflects titles that are of particular interest to this course, films that are historically or aesthetically important as examples of documentary or types of documentary. Fuller descriptions and credits are available in catalogues at the media center and the on line catalogue. You can also search by topic and filmmaker. There are several topic catalogues in the media center.

The Anderson Platoon
tv doc'y depicting a platoon in Vietnam War

Antonia; Portrait of the Woman
early feminist docy on symphony conductor

Atomic Cafe
using historical footage, commercials, etc. comically examines the post WW2 development of awe/anxiety about atomic energy in the US

The Battle of Midway
WW2 doc'y by John Ford

Before Stonewall
interview based discussion of gay/lebian life before 1970s

Best Boy
cv presentation of an individual

Berkeley in the 60s
interview and historical footage to analyze the 60s student movement

Berlin: Symphony of a Great City
classic silent city symphony

Blood in the Face
cv presentation of Nazi, Aryan Nation, skinheads damning themselves out of their own mouths

Blues According to Lightning Hopkins
portrait of the performer

A Brief History of Time
The ideas of genius physicist Stephen J. Hawkins in a highly manipulated form by Errol Morris

British Documentary Movement (7 tapes)
collection of all the best known Brit Docs of 30s, 40s

Brooklyn Bridge
Ken Burns PBS doc'y using historical photos, texts, etc.

Burden of Dreams
portrait of mad genius director Werner Herzog making the dramatic film
Fitzcaraldo, in the Amazon, a project which killed extras, by Les Blank

But Then She's Betty Carter
portrait of the blues singer

Cannibal Tours
Doc'y on wealthy tourists visiting Papua New Guinea; sides with the natives

Chicago Politics: A Theatre of Power
Chicagoan Bill Stamets on the Harold Washington years in Chicago during the
1980s. Shot in Super 8mm, shows the behind the scenes at staged political events.

Children of the Left

Chulas Fronteras
Les Blank on Tex-Mex border music

Come Back Africa
Lionel Rogosin clandestine doc'y on S. Africa c. 1960

Consuming Hunger

Dead Birds
famous ethnographic film on rituals

Don't Look Back
cv treatment of Bob Dylan's tour of Great Britain

Enthusiasm
Vertov's "symphony of the Don Basin" in the Ukraine

Eyes on the Prize
multiple episodes of the PBS doc'y on the US Civil Rights movement using
historical footage

Fight for Life
Pare Lorenz doc'y on the Chicago Maternity Center, a resource for home delivery

Gates of Heaven

Errol Morris docy on pet cemeteries

General Idi Amin Dada

Barbet Shroeder's portrait of the violent dictator

Grass: A Nation's Battle for Life

silent era docy on central asian people, compare with Flaherty

Gray Gardens

cv study of older women living together

Harlan County, USA

cv study of unionizing in the Kentucky coal mines by Barbara Kopple

Hot Pepper

Les Blank does Cajun music

Land Without Bread

Luis Bunuel surrealist ethnographic doc'y on poorest area of Spain in 30s

Le Joli Mai

classic direct cinema docy; interviews with Parisians at the end of the Algerian War

Kino Pravda

examples of Vertov's newsreels

The Land

Flaherty

The Las Vegas Tapes

video verite on the streets

Las Madres

study of Argentine women protesting their murdered and disappeared children during the military dictatorship

Life and Times of Rosie the Riveteer

Connie Field's doc'y on women workers in WW2, interviews and historical footage

The Mexican Tapes

4 hour series on undocumented mexicans in S. California from their point of view; a great refutation of Prop 187 arguments

The Negro Soldier
Capra, WW2 propaganda film

Las Nicas
Study of Nicaraguan women during the Sandinista period made from interview material and still photography by Julia Lesage; classic of thrifty media

Not a Love Story
Canadian doc'y by Bonnie Klein against pornography; interesting feminist refutation by B. Ruby Rich should be read along with it.

The Nuer
ethnographic

Olympische Spiele
Reifenstahl's doc'y of the 1936 Berlin Olympics; a classic of sports editing

La Operation
Puerto Rican feminist analysis of sterilization of PR women

Palazollo's Chicago
Chicago cv maker's views of offbeat city life

Paris is Burning
Jennie Livingston's study of Harlem gay drag balls and the participants

Power and the Land
Lorenz classic 30s Doc'y

The Primary: The 90s Election Special
1992 primaries shot by a wide variety of video makers, mostly using inexpensive portable equipment, Hi-8, etc.

The Quiet One
1940's study of a troubled Harlem youth in foster care school

Rain
(in avant garde collection) classic lyrical Joris Ivens study of a rain storm in Amsterdam

The River
Lorenz classic 1930s doc on the Mississippi and flood control

Rivers of Sand
Robt. Gardner ethnographic doc'y

Roger and Me

Roger Moore comic commentary doc'y on unemployment in GM's Flint Michigan; documentarist as standup comedian

Salesman

classic cv film on Bible salesmen; a model of tight editing

Shoah

long contemporary study of Holocaust, esp those who participated willingly or by force

Song of Ceylon

lyrical study of (now) Sri Lanka; imperial doc'y at its best

Streetwise

cv study of homeless youth in Seattle

The Thin Blue Line

Errol Morris doc'y recreation/investigation

Tongues Untied

experimental doc'y on Black gay men

The Town

Von Sternberg's only doc'y, for WW2 propaganda

Triumph of the Will

The long version, mostly in German

28 Up

interesting longitudinal study made by interviewing the same subjects every 7 years

The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception

controversial CBS doc'y which accused Gen. Westmoreland of falsifying military intelligence; he sued and won.

Underground

experimental doc'y on Students for a Democratic Society breakaway group, Weatherman while they were in hiding for urban terrorism

Union Maids

Radical nostalgia of women active in 30s union drives

Video Against AIDS

anthology that includes some doc'y on AIDS issues, activism

Who Killed Vincent Chen?

analytical study of anti-asian racism

Why We Fight (7 programs)

the classic WW2 propaganda films

With Babies and Banners

radical nostalgia on women in 30s unionization in Flint

Word is Out

Gays and lesbians tell their stories

sources of critical commentary on doc'y: **Cineaste** regularly covers political doc'y, sometimes with a forum of differing views on controversial films (such as Roger and Me); **Jump Cut** also often discusses political doc'y; **The Independent** covers the subject from the point of view of makers and has lots of information for independent producers.